(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government are taking for preservation of these documents?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Though the records are kept in air-conditioned stack rooms, old records get brittle due to natural process of ageing.

Preservation and Conservation of Records is a continuous process. National Archives of India takes a series of well-defined steps which includes cleaning, fumigation, deacidification, repairing, lamination and binding for preservation of documents.

Jama Masjid

†646. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jama Masjid constructed by the Mughal Emperor is a historical and cultural heritage of Delhi and it is necessary to conserve it but in spite of its being under control of the Wakf Board it has become the property of a particular person;

(b) if so, whether he is also aware of the fact that there is insanitation, crowd and illegal construction around it which is changing the shape of its cultural heritage;

(c) if so, by when it would be declared as protected building; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) It is a fact that Jama Masjid is a historic monument and deserves to be properly conserved. A PIL was filed in the hon'ble High Court of Delhi seeking declaration of Jama Masjid as a centrally protected monument on 12.10.2004.

In compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble High Court dated 3.11.2004, a meeting was held on 14.12.2004 under the Chairmanship of the Director

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Bimba Raikar.

General, Archaeological Survey of India which was attended by the officials from the Delhi Wakf Board on the subject of declaring Jama Masjid as a monument of national importance. The consensus in the meeting was to continue the present system wherein Archaeological Survey of India would undertake conservation works of Jama Masjid in view of its historical and archaeological importance but without taking it over as a protected monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

The Delhi High Court in their interim order dated 26.5.2005 came to the finding that the notification issued by the Government of India dated April 16,1970 shows Jama Masjid built by Mughal Emperor, Shahjahan as one of the Wakf properties. It was further directed that if any repairs have to be carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India, the same shall be done in consultation with the Wakf Board in view of the aforesaid position.

The hon'ble High Court of Delhi has further directed in their interim order dated 14.7.2005 that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Wakf Board with the assistance from the Police should remove the unauthorized structures from and around the Wakf land. The Survey Commissioner (Wakf) should carry out survey and identify unauthorized structures inside and outside the monument on Wakf land. On the subject of conservation and repairs of the Jama Masjid, it has been directed by the Hon'ble Court that small repairs of urgent nature should be carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India and a report should be filed by the next date of hearing which is on 3rd August, 2005. For the long-term repairs, the Archaeological Survey of India should do the necessary exercise and inform the cost involved to the Delhi Wakf Board. Further, the matter is subjudice in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

Ram Niwas Mirdha Committee recommendations

647. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ram Niwas Mirdha Committee had submitted its findings in 1984;